

Remarks

Claims 1 – 32 are pending and reconsideration of those claims is requested. The title has been amended and withdrawal of the objection to the title is requested.

Claim 1 features a method for updating a client computer coupled by a network to a server computer. The method includes *changing a status of a server computer and transmitting a status message by means of the network between the server computer and the client computer regarding a change of status of the server computer*. The process also includes displaying a message at the client computer to apprise a user that a status of the server computer has changed and initiating a communications between the client computer and the server computer over the network to inform the client computer regarding details of the change of status in the server computer.

The prior art patents cited by the Examiner neither show nor suggest the recited process of claim 1. In the office action the Examiner acknowledges that Johnson II (US 6,397,245) does not show “that the status of the server is taken (sic)”, paragraph five, page 3. Without any factual underpinning from a reference relevant to the claim 1 recitation, the Examiner then states that the status of a server can be taken regarding a wide variety of problems such as troubleshooting network and security problems. (See paragraph 5, page 3 of the office action)

The examiner asserts that Chen et al (US 6,021,437) teaches the reasonableness of checking the status of a server. A reading of col 2 lines 30 – 50 of Chen et al , however, suggests that the server in Chen et al is checking a status of a client. “Information is automatically collected as a function of domains examined and systematically processed by the server” See col 2, line 45. Similarly, Johnson II uses a diagnostic tool for checking the status of a client. “[T]he system includes a managed object (e.g. a network node) having data control software configured to collect data from the managed object in response to specific requests made by the diagnostic control” See col 2, line 41 of Johnson II. The references cited fairly teach monitoring a network client status by means

of a server, but fail to teach the italicized portions of claim 1 recited above and for this reason claim 1 is patentable.

In summary, the two applied references do not suggest the features of claim one the Examiner asserts. Furthermore, the Examiner's attempt to bridge a missing element of a prima facie rejection is unsubstantiated and does not change the fact that the two principal references monitor client status and do not help update a client based on changes to a server.

Claims 2 – 9 depend from allowable claim 1 and are also allowable.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1. This claim additionally features the details of the change in updated status of the server computer that are communicated to the client being displayed at the client. A then current status of those features at the client computer are also displayed to aid a user in updating the client computer status.

Claim 6 was rejected based on the combination of the two primary references to Johnson II et al and Chen et al and in addition based on Kenner et al (US 6,314,565). Kenner et al fairly teaches allowing a user, by means of an internet connection, to determine if his or her software needs to be updated. There is no suggestion, however, to modify the deficient teaching of the primary references regarding the manner in which this information is provided. The transmitting of a status message by means of the network between the server computer and the client computer regarding a change of status of the server computer is not suggested by Kenner et al and this claim is allowable.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and additionally features automatically reconfiguring the client computer *based on the details of the change of status in the server computer*. Claim 9 additionally includes displaying a message at the client computer that a status of the client computer has automatically been reconfigured based on the change of status of the server computer.

The Examiner bases the rejection of claims 8 and 9 on the teaching of Johnson II et al and Chen et al. when combined with DeKoning et al (US 6,480,955). DeKoning et al manages device configuration changes, but does not show or suggest the process of

upgrading a server and allowing a client to be upgraded automatically based on a change in the status of the server. In DeKoning et al the goal is a controlled change in the status of the client and no status information regarding a change in the server is shared with the client to allow the client to decide how to change its own configuration. For these additional reasons claims 8 and 9 are allowable.

Claim 10 features a method for updating a client computer coupled by a network to a server appliance. A status message is presented in response to a change in status of the server appliance by means of the network interface of the server appliance to alert one or more client computers connected to the network that there has been a change of status of the server appliance. The server responds to a receipt of the status update request message from the one or more clients by *sending a network message to a client computer to apprise a client computer regarding a change of status of the server appliance* . Exposing an upgraded status of the server appliance to the client computer informs the client computer regarding details of the change of status in the server appliance.

The process of claim 10 is neither shown nor suggested by Johnson II et al (Chen et al is not relied on to reject claim 10). The emphasis in Johnson II et al is in diagnosing the status of a client from a server. As noted above Johnson II states “ [T]he system includes a managed object (e.g. a network node) having data control software configured to collect data from the managed object in response to specific requests made by the diagnostic control” See col 2 line 41 of Johnson II. The italicized portions of claim 10 are not suggested by Johnson II et al either alone or in combination with other cited references. For this reason claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 11 –14 depend from allowable claim 10 and for at least this reason these dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 13 depends from allowable claim 10 and recites that the client computer obtains an updated server appliance status and displays an updated server appliance status and a then current status of the client computer to aid a user in updating the client computer status.

This claim like claim 6, claim 13 was rejected based on the combination of the two primary references to Johnson II et al and Chen et al and in addition based on Kenner et al (US 6,314,565). Kenner et al fairly teaches allowing a user, by means of an internet connection, to determine if his or her software needs to be updated. There is no suggestion however to modify the deficient teaching of the primary references regarding the manner in which this information is provided. No update status message is sent to the client.

Claim 15 recites apparatus for updating one or more client computers coupled to a computer network that has a server computer having a processor for executing a stored program within a computer server memory. The stored program includes a status update component to allow a user to change a status of a server computer coupled to a network. The stored program also has a *communications component for transmitting a status message by means of the network to one or more client computers regarding the change of status of the server computer* to apprise a user that a status of the server computer has changed. Additionally, the stored program has a read only status component for exposing a detailed listing of the status of said server computer corresponding to an updated status of the server computer following the change of status of said server computer.

The rational for rejecting claim 15 in the Office action is the same rational as offered in the rejection of claim 1. For the reasons noted above, the Johnson et al and Chen et al combination do not suggest at least the italicized features of claim 15 and this claim is allowable.

Claim 16 features the apparatus of claim 15 wherein the communications component is a DCOM server component having an interface exposed to a DCOM client residing on the one or more client computers. The Johnson II et al patent appears to have a DCOM interface but not a communications interface that transmits a status message by means of the network to one or more client computers regarding the change of status of the server computer to apprise a user that a status of the server computer has changed. For this additional reason claim 16 is patentable.

Claims 17 – 22 are computer readable media claims corresponding to method claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, and 9. The arguments presented above with regard to those claims are also applicable to these additional claims and accordingly claims 17 – 22 are allowable.

Claim 23 is a computer readable medium claim that corresponds to method claim 10 and is allowable for the reasons presented above with regard to that claim. Claims 24 and 25 depend from allowable claim 23 and are also allowable.

Claim 26 recites a method for use with a computer having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device. The method updates a configuration of the computer in response to a reconfiguration of a network server by a computer setup wizard. The method displays an interface link that can be actuated with an interface user selection device to launch the computer setup wizard *in response to receipt of a message* from the network server that a server configuration has changed. The process also *calls for communicating with the server to determine an updated status of the server computer and displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices based on the updated status*. A user is allowed to accept or modify the list of client reconfiguration choices. A command button is provided which when actuated by the user begins the process of reconfiguring the client computer based upon the list of client reconfiguration choices.

To reject the italicized portions of claim 26, the Examiner points to Figures 7 and 5 of Johnson II et al. Figure 7 is described at col 11, line 31. At line 44, Johnson II et al states “the process starts by the script 132 checking the software installation on the managed node.” This reference does not suggest the sending of a message regarding an updated status of a server to a client. Turning to the Examiner’s reliance on Figure 5, the status of a printer is displayed on the screen in that figure. This clearly does not illustrate a number of reconfiguration choices as featured in claim 26.

The Examiner has also cited the patent to Reha et al (US 6,282,709) to teach use of a button to begin the process of reconfiguring the client. Like the Renner et al patent discussed above with regard to claims 6 and 13, this patent fairly teaches a process for

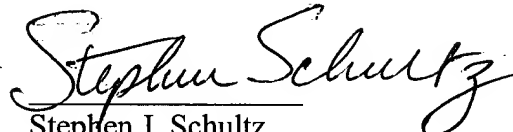
updating software installed on a computer but does not remedy the failure to teach or suggest the invention featured in claim 26 by the asserted combination of references. For this additional reason claim 26 is patentable.

Claims 27 – 32 depend from allowable claim 26 and are also allowable.

All claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance and a prompt notification of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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